

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 PC-01 AID-05  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W  
-----123032 261249Z /64

R 250743Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5276  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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EO 11652: NA  
TUGS: PEPR MOPS NATO PL CG BE FR US UK  
SUBJ: POLISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF WESTERN INVOLVEMENT  
IN ZAIRE

1. SUMMARY: POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY ON EVENTS  
IN ZAIRE ECHOES, BUT IN LESS EMPHATIC FORM, THE  
TASS LINE IN SUPPORT OF THE FRONT OF CONGOLESE LIBERATION.  
ACCORDING TO THIS LINE, THE ACTION OF THE BELGIAN  
AND FRENCH FORCES, SUPPORTED BY THE US AND UK, CONSTITUTES  
INTERVENTION BY NATO COUNTRIES INTO THE INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS OF A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY AND IS DESIGNED TO  
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PROTECT THE WEST'S HUGE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN ZAIRE.  
POLISH PRESS AGENCY (PAP) CORRESPONDENTS IN BRUSSELS  
AND PARIS SEEK TO BUTTRESS THEIR CASE WITH COMMENTS  
CRITICAL OF THE FRANCO-BELGIAN ACTION, EXTRACTED FROM  
THE NON-COMMUNIST PRESS IN THE WEST. THE POLISH  
PRESS HAS MENTIONED NOTHING ABOUT THE FATE OF AN  
ESTIMATED 30 POLISH NATIONALS WORKING UNDER CONTRACT

FOR THE ZAIREAN GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. TRYBUNA LUDU, THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY (PZPR), ON MAY 19 PUBLISHED A PAP DISPATCH WHICH IMPLIED THAT WESTERN PRESS AGENCIES WERE STARTING UP PROPAGANDA EFFORTS TO JUSTIFY PROSPECTIVE INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE BY WESTERN POWERS: "ON THE OTHER HAND, WESTERN PRESS AGENCIES FOR SEVERAL HOURS HAVE GIVEN OUT ALARMIST INFORMATION -- BASED ON UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES -- ABOUT A THREAT TO LIFE FOR CITIZENS OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE LIVING IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE INSURGENTS, WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF SOME OBSERVERS, CAN BECOME A PRETEXT FOR ARMED INTERVENTION IN DEFENSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MOBUTU."

3. A PAP DISPATCH PUBLISHED MAY 20 IN TRYBUNA LUDU CONFIRMED THE FEARS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY: "NATO COUNTRIES INTERVENED MILITARILY ON THE PRETEXT OF PROTECTING THE LIVES OF EUROPEAN PEOPLE." PAP CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS JAN SIERZPUTKOWSKI CONTINUED: "IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS IT IS ALSO SAID THAT IT (ARMED INTERVENTION) HAS AS ITS AIM THE PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF LARGE WESTERN CONCERNS; THE EVACUATION OF THE WHITE POPULATION IS TREATED AS A PRETEXT."

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4. THE MAY 22 EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUDU QUOTED LE MONDE IN SUPPORT OF THIS ALLEGATION: "THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IS IN FACT DICTATED BY THE AIM TO SECURE THE HUGE CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THAT COUNTRY." THE TRYBUNA LUDU ARTICLE WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT, "THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM IN ZAIRE PROVOKED PROTESTS AMONG PROGRESSIVE SECTORS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN THE WEST AS WELL AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD." PAP'S MAY 23 REPORT REITERATED THIS THEME, ASSERTING, "THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM IN ZAIRE, EXECUTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, MET WITH GENERAL CONDEMNATION." ACCORDING TO THE DISPATCH THE ZAIREAN GOVERNMENT FORCES DESERVED A LARGE MEASURE OF BLAME: "IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EVACUATED JOURNALISTS, SCENES OF PUNDER, FORCE, AND VIOLENCE ARE DESCRIBED. IN THEIR STORIES, THE STATEMENT IS REPEATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ARMY OF ZAIRE MASSACRED MANY EUROPEANS. MAY REFUGEES -- WRITES UPI -- CLAIM THAT THE ZAIREAN ARMY PUNDERED HOUSES AND SOLDIERS TOOK THE LAST PERSONAL POSSESSIONS OF EUROPEANS GOING TO THE AIRPORT."

5. THE PAP REPORT ON MAY 24 INCLUDES A TASS CON-  
DEMNATION OF "THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF NATO CUNTRIES"  
AND LASO CITES THE ACCOUNT OF A "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
OF THE BELGIAN DAILY "LE SOIR", WHO, ACCORDING TO  
TRYBUNA LUDU, WROTE THAT "SOLDIERS OF THE FRENCH  
FOREIGN LEGION, DURING PACIFICATION OF THE CITY OF  
KOLWEZI, SHOT EVERYTHING THAT MOVED, MURDERING NOT  
ONLY BLACK INSURGENTS BUT ALSO DEFENSELESS PEOPLE IF  
THEY WERE IN THE LINE OF FIRE. IN THAT WAY THE  
LEGIONNAIRES KILLED FOUR EUROPEANS WHO, OF COURSE,  
THEY CAME "TO RESCUE." IN ADDITION, THE PAP REPORT  
STRESSES ASSERTED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND  
BELGIAN GIVERNMENTS, CLAIMING THAT BELGIUM FEARS  
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FRANCE IS USING THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE TO HARM BELGIAN  
INTERESTS THERE. (COMMENT: INTERESTINGLY, A TOP OFFICIAL OF  
THE FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE OF THE POLISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE  
REMARKED WITH SOME ADMIRATION TO THE AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY THAT  
THE FRENCH SEEM TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR MISSION.  
END COMMENT).

6. THE POLISH MEDIA HAVE BEEN SILENT ON THE FATE OF 30 POLISH  
NATIONALS WORKING IN ZAIRE ON CONTRACT WITH THE ZAIREAN GOVERNMENT.  
AS FAR AS THE POLISH PUBLIC HAS BEEN TOLD, THERE ARE NO POLES IN  
THE COUNTRY OTHER THAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL.  
SCHAUFLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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